

CLAIMS:

1. An electronic device comprising:

control means for providing the device with a plurality of selectable operating modes, the operating modes defining respective sets of operating parameters for functions of the device;

voice detection means for receiving an input voice signal and for providing voice activation of at least one function of the device, the voice detection means being operable to compare an input voice signal with a library of stored voice signals and to output a control signal on the basis of that comparison,

wherein the stored voice signals are stored by at least one user of the device, and

wherein each operating mode of the device has an associated library of stored voice signals for use by the voice detection means when the operating mode concerned is selected.

2. An electronic device having a plurality of user selectable operating modes, each operating mode defining a set of operating parameters for the device, and having at least one voice activated function which is responsive to an input voice signal,

wherein reference voice signals are stored in the device by at least one user of the device and

wherein the reference voice signals are stored in groups, each of which relates to a specific operating mode of the device.

3. A device as claimed in claim 1 or 2, being a mobile telephone and having a voice activated dialling function for dialling called numbers in response to a voice input from a user, the groups of reference voice signals including references to intended called numbers.

4. A device as claimed in claim 1 or 2, being a mobile telephone, and wherein the reference voice

signals relate to specific functions of the telephone.

5        5.    A device as claimed in claim 1 or 2, being a mobile telephone, wherein at least one operating mode is defined by at least one user of the telephone, the reference signal group associated with that operating mode also being defined by the user.

10       6.    A method of operating an electronic device which has a plurality of operating modes for defining operating parameters of the device, and which has at least one voice activated function, the method comprising:

         storing reference voice signals in groups;

         associating the said groups with respective operating modes of the device; and

15       using an associated group of reference signals for voice signal matching in a chosen operating mode.

         7.    A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the device is a mobile telephone.

20       8.    A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein each operating mode defines a respective list of voice references to potential dialled numbers, the voice references being compared with an input voice signal to determine the number to be dialled by the telephone.

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